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APPLICANT:

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the following patents and/or other documents which may be material to the examination of this application. The Examiner is urged to consider these documents and make them of record in this application. This submission is not intended to constitute an admission of any kind, and in particular is not an admission that any patent, or other document referred to herein constitutes a printed publication or is otherwise properly citable as prior art with respect to this application. No representation is made that a search has been conducted or that no more material information than that cited herein exists. Accordingly, this submission is not intended to take the place of the Examiner's own independent search of the art.

A list of the patents and/or other documents is set forth on the attached Form(s) PTO-1449.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this document and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an egyelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, On this day of March, 2000.

A copy of each of these documents or translations or abstract as appropriate, is attached or will be forwarded as soon as it becomes available.

Respectfully submitted, LORI L. CARRIGAN

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